

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Withdrawn) An anode active material for a lithium secondary battery comprising a complex composed of ultra-fine Si phase particles and an oxide surrounding the Si phase particles, and a carbon material.
2. (Withdrawn) The anode active material according to claim 1, wherein the oxide comprises a material selected from the group consisting of Al, Ti, Zr, Nb, Cr, Fe, Li, Mn, Ni, Co, Sn, V, In, Y, Ge, Ta, Mg, Ca, Mo, Sb, P, B, N and mixtures of two or more thereof.
3. (Withdrawn) The anode active material according to claim 1, wherein the anode active material is surface-modified by coating it with a low crystalline or amorphous carbon material.
4. (Withdrawn) An anode active material for a lithium secondary battery comprising a complex composed of Si phase particles and an oxide surrounding the Si phase particles.
5. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing an anode active material for a lithium secondary battery, the method comprising:
  - (a) a step of producing a complex composed of ultra-fine-Si particles and an oxide surrounding the ultra-fine-Si particles by mixing a silicon oxide and a material having an absolute value of a negative oxide formation enthalpy ( $\Delta H_{\text{for}}$ ), an absolute value of which is greater than that of an absolute value of the oxide formation enthalpy

of the silicon oxide ~~and also a negative oxide formation enthalpy~~ by a mechanochemical process or subjecting them to a thermochemical reaction to reduce the silicon oxide; ~~[[and]]~~

(b) a step of mixing the complex and a carbon material; and

(c) a step of surface-modifying by coating the anode active material with a low crystalline or amorphous carbon material,

wherein the material having the negative oxide formation enthalpy, the absolute value of which is greater than the absolute value of the oxide formation enthalpy of the silicon oxide, comprises Al.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, further comprising: ball milling the Si ~~phase-containing oxide complex~~ and the carbon material to form a composite material.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, further comprising: adding a lithium compound selected from the group consisting of  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{LiNO}_3$ ,  $\text{Li}_2\text{S}$  and mixtures of two or more thereof, in the first step (a).

10. (Canceled)